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Letter dated 5 November 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw the attention of the Security Council to the development of the security situation in North Kivu arising from the capture by the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo of the last strongholds of the hostile forces of the Mouvement du 23 mars (M23).

1. Capture of Tchanzu and Runyonyi by the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

On Tuesday, 5 November 2013, after a final assault on the last strongholds of the hostile forces of M23 in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo succeeded in routing those hostile forces from Tchanzu and Runyonyi, two hills in Rutshuru on which they were entrenched.

Despite this military victory, my Government is aware that much remains to be done in order to achieve the long-term stabilization of the situation in this part of the country, which has just been completely liberated from the hostile forces of M23. For that reason, my Government intends to build on the contacts already undertaken to that end, both through talks with members of the former M23 armed group in Kampala, and domestically, through the implementation of the recommendations of the national dialogue held in Kinshasa at the initiative of the President of the Republic.

My Government fully endorses the communiqué adopted at the last Joint Summit of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), held in Pretoria, South Africa, on 4 November 2013, and invites the neighbouring States concerned to comply. Among other things, the Heads of State and Government of the two regional organizations meeting in the South African capital called upon member States to hand over hostile forces to their countries of origin within the spirit of the Addis Ababa framework.

Beyond this requirement of the framework, my Government wishes to inform you that, with a view to re-establishing full state authority throughout the country, the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo will soon take vigorous action against the hostile forces of the Forces démocratiques de libération du

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Rwanda (FDLR), the Ugandan Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF-NALU), the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the Forces nationales de libération (FNL), which have been pillaging Congolese territory for far too long, sowing death and destruction, while also threatening the security of their countries of origin.

Furthermore, my Government believes that there is good reason to welcome the fact that, despite the provocations of the M23 extremists who caused the clashes last week, a certain harmony of views has been achieved in Kampala concerning 11 paragraphs of the draft Kampala declaration that will be the outcome of the talks currently under way between the Government and the former M23 armed movement. My Government would like to see the Kampala declaration signed as soon as possible in order to maximize the time frame — and the chances of success — of the action aimed at disarming the other hostile forces, which is a prerequisite for rehabilitation in North and South Kivu.

2. Declaration by the Mouvement du 23 mars

A communiqué signed by Bertrand Bisimwa on 5 November 2013 and issued the same day reads in part as follows: "The leadership of the Mouvement du 23 mars announces to those inside and outside the country that it has decided henceforth to end its rebellion and to use purely political means in seeking solutions to the root causes that led to its establishment". The communiqué calls upon the military leaders of M23 to prepare their men for the disarmament, demobilization and social reintegration process, "the modalities of which will be agreed upon with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo". If this document is authentic, it will mark a move in the right direction, in accordance with the scenario for ending the crisis agreed upon in Kampala and finalized in Pretoria.

According to the timetable agreed upon by the States members of SADC and ICGLR at the summit meeting in Pretoria, M23 had 48 hours to make this public declaration renouncing armed rebellion, following which the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo would make a public declaration of acknowledgment after verifying the reality on the ground. Five days after formally acknowledging that the commitment by the former rebels was genuine, Congolese Government officials would faithfully affix their signatures to the Kampala declaration alongside those of the M23 representatives.

In the meantime, on the ground, the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with the support of the United Nations Intervention Brigade pursuant to Security Council resolution 2098 (2013), will continue to track down any other hostile forces that have not heeded the ultimatum issued by President Joseph Kabila a few days ago.

My Government wishes to reiterate here that there is no place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for any armed group whatsoever, whether it be the Rwandan FDLR, the Ugandan ADF-NALU or LRA, the Burundian FNL or any Congolese Mayi-Mayi group.

My Government would also like to recall that the number of FDLR forces has been significantly reduced thanks to campaigns organized solely by the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There is, therefore, no reason to doubt the will or effectiveness of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in

combating these hostile forces from Rwanda, who are now causing much more harm to the Congolese people than to their own countrymen.

As the FDLR issue is one of the pretexts most often used by Rwanda to destabilize eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, my Government would like to remind the Council of the recommendation issued by the last Joint Summit of SADC and ICGLR on 4 November 2013, in which the States members of the two organizations were invited to work towards the repatriation of hostile forces to their countries of origin. To that end, my Government invites Rwanda to accept the return of FDLR to their country of origin, Rwanda. The same applies to the other neighbouring countries. This solution will make it possible to achieve lasting peace in the region.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is eager to maintain good-neighbourly relations with Rwanda and all its other neighbours. It will make every effort to do so and hopes that those efforts will be reciprocated.

3. Deployment of the Intervention Brigade along the eastern border of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

In view of the development of the situation on the ground and particularly the surrender of M23, my Government invites the Intervention Brigade to deploy as quickly as possible along the eastern border of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo-Rwanda border and Democratic Republic of the Congo-Uganda border) in order to prevent troop incursions and movements. This request is in line with paragraph 12 of resolution 2098 (2013), which gives the Intervention Brigade a mandate to observe and report on flows of military personnel, arms or related materiel across the eastern border of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including by using, as specified in the Council's letter of 22 January 2013 (S/2013/44), surveillance capabilities, including drones.

Accordingly, my Government urges the Security Council to:

(1) Request the hostile forces of M23 to implement their declaration of 5 November 2013;

(2) Demand that the hostile forces of M23 be fully and effectively demobilized and lay down their arms;

(3) Order the rapid deployment of the Intervention Brigade along the eastern border of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo-Rwanda border and Democratic Republic of the Congo-Uganda border), in order to prevent troop incursions and movements along the border, and the deployment of drones for border surveillance;

(4) Call on the States of the region and on Rwanda to ensure strict respect for all the commitments they have freely undertaken in accordance with the framework and, more particularly, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

My Government requests the Security Council to take action on the present letter and to have it circulated as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Ignace **Gata Mavita**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative